GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3610
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2009
PROVISION OF SOLAR LIGHTS
Shariq Shri Sharief Ud Din

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government consider to provide solar lights to people living below poverty line free of cost in the country including Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any survey for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH)

(a),(b),(c)&(d): Solar lighting systems are not provided free of cost to the people living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in the country. However, there is a scheme for providing solar lanterns free of cost to a girl child studying in class IX to XII, from BPL families residing in unelectrified villages/ hamlets in the Special Category States, including Jammu & Kashmir and Island Union Territories. The Government has not conducted any survey for this purpose. During 2006-07, the Ministry sanctioned a project for distribution of 60,000 solar lanterns free of cost to school going children from Class VI to XII belonging to distressed / BPL farmer families in the six district of Vidharbha region of Maharashtra. The Ministry also provided 14,000 nos. of LED based solar lanterns free of cost to the cyclone 'AILA' affected victims in Sundarbans, West Bengal during the current year.